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ABSTRACT

Part of a series on the transition of students with disabilities from school to adult roles, this guide focuses on the transition to postsecondary education. It presents a model, the Opportunities in Postsecondary Education through Networking (OPEN) model, to assist students, parents, and school personnel in the decision-making, planning, and preparation processes that will result in college enrollment for students with disabilities. The OPEN model's first step is deciding or making the decision to attend a college. Chapter 2 of the guide offers suggestions and activities for students involved in the deciding step. The next step in the OPEN Model is planning, discussed in Chapter 3. The planning process is subdivided into three domains: academic planning, career planning, and personal-social planning. Chapter 4 guides teacher and students through the preparing process, the third step in the OPEN model. Chapter 5 focuses on the fourth step of the OPEN model, exploring. Information and activities are provided that will assist students in exploring college options. In Chapter 6, students investigate and evaluate their final college choices with support from their Individualized Education Program teams who have created an Individualized Transition Plan. The final chapter features instructions and suggestions for completing the application process. (Contains 66 references.) (CR)

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